REMARKS

Favorable consideration of this Application as presently amended and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-5 are pending in the present Application. Claims 1 and 3-5 have been amended. Support for the amendment of Claims 1 and 3-5 can be found at least at Fig. 20 and its corresponding description in the specification. No new matter has been added.

By way of summary, the Official Action presents the following issues: Claims 1-5 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over <u>Dworkin</u> (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0071,540), in view of <u>Srinivasan</u> (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2001/0023430).

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103

The Official Action has rejected Claims 1-5 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being anticipated by <u>Dworkin</u> in view of <u>Srinivasan</u>. The Official Action states that <u>Dworkin</u> discloses all of the Applicants' claim limitations with the exception of sending a distribution notice to a user together with authentication data for the user to access a chat space and first service in accordance with the distribution notice. The Official Action cites <u>Srinivasan</u> as disclosing this more detailed aspect of the Applicants' invention, and states that it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the cited references to arrive at the Applicants' claims. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

Claim 1 recites, *inter alia*, an information processing apparatus, including:

> . . .a generation unit configured to generate the chat space
> corresponding to the reservation at a predetermined time prior to a
> distribution start time designated by the reservation; and
> a providing unit configured to provide the chat space to the first
> terminal and the second terminal coincident with the first service, the
> second terminal accessing the chat space and first service in accordance
> with authentication data of the received distribution notice.

Dworkin describes an application service provider environment for providing a distributed conferencing configuration. As shown in Fig. 1 of this reference, the configuration (99) includes a plurality of users (100A-100F) employing the Internet (104). Conferencing resources (112) include both hardware and software components, and, are hosted and managed by a conferencing application service provider (110).[1]

In operation, the users (100) may employ the services of the conferencing configuration to facilitate distribution of data and video conferencing without the expense and overhead associated with owning and maintaining their own conference resources. For example, an individual user (100A) would register with the application service provider (ASP) and be provided with an application program interface (API) to receive the necessary software for support facilitating communication with the provider. Likewise, the user may user third-party instant messaging software to communicate with other users. In addition, the ASP may employ a messaging utility (122), such that upon registration, a user downloads an instant messaging plug-in for use with a user interface (100B). In this way, the user can initiate a conference by inviting other instant messaging participants registered with the ASP.[2]

Srinivasan describes an audio conferencing system in which the conference bridge (2) includes a number of dial-in ports, which are programmed to establish communication

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[1] Dworkin at paragraph 14.
[2] Dworkin at paragraphs 16-17.

between attendees of a conference call. In order to participate in the conference, attendees

are given a bridge number, as well as identification or security number in order to gain access

to the conference.[3]

Conversely, in an exemplary embodiment of Applicants' invention, a live distribution

service for streaming contents to users is provided in accordance with a reservation made in

advance by a first terminal. In operation, a personal computer (3), provides contents for

distribution according to a reservation to a streaming server (5). Second terminals (4-1 - 4-3)

receive the streaming contents from the streaming server according to the reservation made

by the personal computer (3).[4] Coincident with the delivery of the streaming content, a chat

space is created corresponding to the reservation of the streaming distribution. In this way,

the chat space is automatically generated to be coincident with the delivery of the streaming

content without any necessity of the second terminals performing downloading of software or

completing a registration process. For example, distribution notices are provided to second

terminals in accordance with a reservation, so that terminals included in the reservation can

receive information for accessing the streaming content and chat space.

As Dworkin describes only supporting third-party instant messaging services and

providing an instant messaging plug-in to users. This arrangement necessitates users have

previous registration interaction with a server, or, employ their own messaging utility.

Likewise, the user of third-party messaging utilities would not create a single chat space

coincident with a first service as separate conversations would be conducted between

attendees having dissimilar chat utilities. As such, even assuming there were motivation to

combine the teachings of Srinivasan with that of Dworkin, there wouldn't be no coincident

chat space created with the delivery of a first service, such that a single authentication can be

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[3] Srinivasan at paragraphs 16-17.
[4] Application at page 8.

performed to access both the chat space and the first service. The cited combination of references do not disclose or suggest creating a dedicated chat space in accordance with a reservation, such that the chat space is available coincident to a streaming distribution, both services being authenticated in accordance with information provided to terminals in a distribution notice, as recited in amended Claim 1. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 1-5, which recite substantially similar limitations to those discussed above, patently define over the combination of Dworkin and Srinivasan; and, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of Claims 1-5 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

Consequently, in view of the foregoing amendment and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the present Application, including Claims 1-5, is patently distinguished over the prior art, in condition for allowance, and such action is respectfully requested at an early date.

Respectfully submitted,

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